IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2, 6, and 7 and AMEND claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with the following:

1.　(currently amended) A commodity information management program for users to retrieve information of their various commodities, said program controlling a computer to be operated as equipment comprising:

first storage that stores a database for defining various attributes, which form a hierarchical structure, of respective commodities, said database including records each of which has fields of a commodity classification code containing the current attribute, a level number containing a level of the current attribute in said hierarchical structure and a parent code containing a commodity classification code showing the parent attribute in the immediately higher level defining a broader sense than the current attribute;

a first accepting portion that accepts information designating said commodity classification code and said parent code through an input device; ~~and~~

an adding portion that adds a record having the commodity classification code and the parent code accepted by said first accepting portion to said first storage as an addition record;~~.~~

a second accepting portion that accepts information designating one of the other records in said first storage whose parent codes are identical to that of said addition record as a moving-back target record through said input device; and

a moving-back portion that replaces the parent code in said moving-back target record with the commodity classification code in said addition record, increments the level number in said moving-back target record by one, and increments the level numbers in the records that define attributes in lower level defining a narrower sense than that in said moving-back target record by one, respectively.

2.　(cancelled)

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3.   (currently amended) The commodity information management program according to claim 12 controlling a computer to be operated as equipment further comprising:

second storage that stores a database including records each of which has commodity information about each kind of a commodity and a commodity code that consists of said commodity classification codes of the commodity in the respective levels; and

an updating portion that adds the commodity classification code in said addition record to the records in said second storage whose commodity codes include the parent code in said addition record.

4.   (currently amended) A commodity information management program for users to retrieve information of their various commodities, said program controlling a computer to be operated as equipment comprising:

first storage that stores a database for defining various attributes, which form a hierarchical structure, of respective commodities, said database including records each of which has fields of a commodity classification code containing a current attribute, a level number containing a level of the current attribute in said hierarchical structure and a parent code containing a commodity classification code showing a parent attribute in the immediately higher level defining a broader sense than the current attribute;

a third first accepting portion that accepts information designating the commodity classification code through an input device;

a deleting portion that deletes the records containing the commodity classification code accepted by said third accepting portion as deletion record from said first storage;

a discriminating portion that discriminates whether there is a moving-up target record in said first storage whose parent code is coincident with the commodity classification code in said deletion record; and

a moving-up portion that replaces the parent code in said moving-up target record with the parent code in said deletion record, decrements the level number in said moving-up target record by one, and decrements the level numbers in the records that define attributes in lower level defining a narrower sense than that in said moving-up target record by one, respectively when said discriminating portion discriminated that there is said moving-up target record in said first storage.

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5.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium that stores a commodity information management program for users to retrieve information of their various commodities, said program controlling a computer to be operated as equipment including:

first storage that stores a database for defining various attributes, which form a hierarchical structure, of respective commodities, said database including records each of which has fields of a commodity classification code containing a current attribute, a level number containing a level of the current attribute in said hierarchical structure and a parent code containing a commodity classification code showing a parent attribute in the immediately higher level defining a broader sense than the current attribute;

a first accepting portion that accepts information designating said commodity classification code and said parent code through an input device; ~~and~~

an addition portion that adds a record recording the commodity classification code and the parent code accepted by said first accepting portion to said first storage as an addition record;~~:~~

a second accepting portion that accepts information designating one of the other records in said first storage whose parent codes are identical to that of said addition record as a moving-back target record through said input device; and

a moving-back portion that replaces the parent code in said moving-back target record with the commodity classification code in said addition record, increments the level number in said moving-back target record by one, and increments the level numbers in the records that define attributes in lower level defining a narrower sense than that in said moving-back target record by one, respectively.

6.   (cancelled)

7.   (cancelled)